#### **MINUTES**

# SPECIAL WORKSESSION/ROUNDTABLE

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA CONFERENCE ROOM 190, YUMA CITY HALL ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA

June 1, 2010 3:00 p.m.

# CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Krieger called the City Council meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Stuart, Mendoza, Beeson, Brooks-Gurrola, Johnson and Mayor

Krieger

Councilmembers Absent: McClendon

Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Greg Wilkinson

City Attorney, Steven W. Moore

Various Department Heads or their representative

City Clerk, Lynda L. Bushong

## I. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**Ronald Hamm** of the Ferguson Group, lobbyist for the City of Yuma at the federal level, presented the following update:

- Pending funding requests:
  - \$1 million funding to conduct a highway feasibility study of the Yuma loop.
    - · Legislation has been extended to the next session of Congress.
  - \$1 million funding for the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area (YCNHA). The funding is critical due to changes in:
    - · Funding from individual appropriations to overall funding
    - · Management of the Territorial Prison and the Quartermaster Depot
  - The East Wetlands funding request is still pending.
- Congressional activities:
  - Congress reduced the number of funding requests to 1-2 per jurisdiction.
  - Little will be accomplished during the remainder of the fiscal year ending September 30,
    2010 because of mid-term elections; Congress may lump the remaining thirteen appropriations into a single Omnibus bill to be approved.
- Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grants are a key process to bringing back dollars for projects.

Ronald Hamm suggested planning early for February 2011 by looking at potential projects, grant opportunities and appropriations and encouraged the City Council to continue visiting Washington at least once a year.

# **Discussion Points:**

- Ken Rosevear, Executive Director of the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, traveled to Washington seeking funding for public transportation.
- Congressional priority issues are unemployment, teachers, health care and the oil spill.
  - Jobs Bill 2010 deals mainly with unemployment and teacher benefits.
    - Amendment added providing some operation funding for transportation agencies.
- National League of Cities introduced a bill to support transit systems.
- Funding from 2011 requests would not be available until the fall which does not address YCAT's immediate need.
  - Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO) extended local transit services for an additional 2 months.
  - A Federal audit of YMPO records found:
    - · Transit and highway funds were commingled.
    - The transit system had been operating in the red for two fiscal years; total debt: about \$549,000.
    - As of April 2010, there was over \$1.7 million in interest bearing registered warrants issued by the county.
- TIGER Grant II has been released; the submission deadline is the middle of July. Changes include:
  - Justification of the amount of jobs created was modified.
  - TIGER Grant II funding is half of what it originally was.
- Local parties should be encouraged to get behind proposal submitted.
- Agribusiness Industry has several concerns with the proposed rewording of "navigable waters of the United States" to "waters of the United States" from the Clean Water Act.
  - How this will affect the river, ground water and the growth of water usage, as well as tributaries that are filled only when it rains?
  - The concern is the process will be manipulated and the proposed changes will not go through committee instead they will go through a midnight vote.
- Hamm will continue to monitor the status on this legislation.

### III. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Krieger adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m. No Executive Session was held.

APPROVED:

Alan L. Krieger, Mayor

Approved at the City Council Meeting of:

City Clerk:

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